

## Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus

### Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

**If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.**

**Submission Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

**Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.**

**Submit to: [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com) including your project ref in the subject line.**

<b>Project reference</b>	DARCC022
<b>Project title</b>	<b>South-south capacity building for human-elephant conflict management</b>
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Tanzania, Namibia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	IIED
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Honeyguide, IRDNC
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Dilys Roe</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR2, October 2024
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="#">South-South capacity building for human-elephant conflict management   International Institute for Environment and Development</a>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end of September).**

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your M&E systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

Output 1: All activities were completed last year

Output 2: Our original target for supply of the Human Elephant Conflict toolkit to Namibian Conservancies as to provide these to 7 conservancies. As reported in our annual report, by end of year 1 we had provided 10 toolkits to 9 conservancies. In the last 6 months IRDNC have extended toolkit provision to 4 more conservancies. Training has also been rolled out to these conservancies not just on deployment of the tools but also on elephant behaviour – following the training provided to the IRDNC rangers by Honeyguide at the start of the project. This took place at IRDNCs conservancy planning meeting which occurred in July.

Output 3: Honeyguide have continued to experiment and innovate with new tools and have developed a further elephant deterrent – the ball. Another training video has been produced to document the construction and use of the ball.

IIED have worked with Honeyguide to compile the training videos into an online toolkit which is available here: <https://www.iied.org/honeyguide-human-elephant-conflict-toolkit>.

Over the final months of the project we will add a training manual to this toolkit too.

The remaining period of the project will focus on adding resources to the online toolkit and disseminating this widely in Africa and beyond. This will occur through each of the partners networks focussing on community conservation networks and human wildlife conflict networks, including the IUCN HWC Specialist Group.

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

We realised that we were running behind on our timeline – particularly in terms of rolling out the physical HEC toolkit in Namibia and developing and disseminating the online toolkit beyond Namibia and so applied to NIRAS for a no cost extension which has been granted and which gives us more time to complete these activities.

**3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with NIRAS:

Yes

Formal Change Request submitted:

Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance:

Yes

Change Request reference if known: Not known, but approval email is dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)**

**Actual spend:**

**4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2025)?**

Yes  No

**4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

**If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes to your project if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

**NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.**

**5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

The review of our annual report suggested we ought to discuss with BCF Admin the risk to rangers dealing with elephants and to check whether we are sufficiently “covered”. We are slightly confused by this request since no where in the activities do we suggest that any of the partners is potentially liable for ranger health and safety. The rangers are not employees of any of the partner organisations and they are already dealing with elephants – and running the risk of doing so – with or without this project. This project is intended simply to provide additional capabilities to deal with elephants – through access to tools. No rangers are compelled to use the tools and the project and project partners have no authority over the rangers. We would be keen to understand what actions BCF Admin would suggest we take.

**6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report.** If your project was subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment please use this space to comment on any changes to international human rights risks, and to address any additional mitigations outlined in your offer letters. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.

Please see Section 5 above re the suggestion to undertake a risk assessment.  
With regard to additional comments:

- 1) We will ensure all documents are provided as pdfs rather than online links in the final report
- 2) Roll out to other conservancies in Namibia is happening via IRDNC
- 3) Roll out to other African countries will happen via the partner’s networks
- 4) The Namibia ranger post-training survey will be repeated at start of Dec 2024

## Checklist for submission

<b>For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	
Have you <b>responded to any additional feedback</b> (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	
If not already submitted, have you attached your <b>risk register</b> ?	
<b>For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	
Have you responded to <b>feedback from your latest Annual Report Review</b> ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	Yes
<b>For All Projects</b>	
Include your <b>project reference</b> in the subject line of submission email.	

Submit to <a href="mailto:BCFs-Report@niras.com">BCFs-Report@niras.com</a> .	Noted
Have you <b>clearly highlighted any confidential information</b> within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	Yes
Have you reported against the most <b>up to date information for your project</b> ?	Yes
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	Noted